

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action. By way of the present amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 14 and 16 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 7-8, 12 and 14-18 stand pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Combs (U.S. 5,699,809). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 4 without prejudice.

Applicants appreciate indication of allowance of claims 7, 8 and 12. Further, claims 14-18 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the suggestions of the examiner, claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1. Likewise, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 4. A typographical error was also addressed with the amendment of claim 16. Accordingly, it is believed claims 14 and 16 are in condition for allowance. The remaining claims (i.e., claims 15, 17 and 18) depend from one of claims 14 and 16 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 15, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. BIM-34968US2.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 10, 2008